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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD J. DURBIN, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, clothed with honor and majesty, You make the clouds Your chariot and walk upon the wind. You cause the Earth to yield its harvest and send blessings to those who fear You.

Guide our lawmakers today to fulfill Your purposes. Lord, enable them to see the stamp of Your image in each person they serve, realizing that when they lift the marginalized, they labor for You. Use them to bring order out of chaos as You keep them on the road of integrity. Reward their diligence with Your bountiful blessings.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, February 11, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD J. DURBIN, a

Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. DURBIN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The majority Leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1963, the Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act. Senator-designate JOHN WALSH of Montana will become a Senator today at 12:15. The Senate will recess today from 12:30 until 2:15 to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

WELCOMING LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JOHN WALSH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today it is my pleasure to welcome the next Senator from Montana, Lt. Gov. JOHN WALSH. Governor WALSH will be sworn in prior to the weekly caucus meetings.

I am really happy with this man coming here. My friend the assistant leader has heard me say this before, but I think it is worth repeating. When I served in the House of Representatives, I served on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and Henry Kissinger appeared before the subcommittee chaired by Congressman Solarz from New York. The Congressman said to Henry Kissinger: "I am really at a loss as to what to call you. Doctor?" He was a Ph.D. "Mr. Ambassador?" He had been an ambassador. "Mr. Secretary?" He went through some other titles he previously had. Finally, Kissinger interrupted him and said: "Your Excellency" would be just fine.

We now have the same problem. JOHN WALSH has been a general. He has been Lieutenant Governor, and it is protocol when one is Lieutenant Governor to be referred to as "Governor." So he has a number of different titles, but soon he will be Senator.

I have talked to him on many different occasions. He is a fine man. I am confident he will find his time here among the most rewarding experiences of his distinguished career. And he is distinguished. He spent his entire adult life serving the people of Montana and our Nation.

Lieutenant Governor WALSH served in the Montana National Guard for more than three decades. After enlisting as a private, he rose through the ranks to lead the Montana National Guard as Adjutant General. He led 2,000 guardsmen in response to the devastating wildfires in 2000. General WALSH also led 700 soldiers of the Montana National Guard's 1st Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment in combat in Iraq. And combat it was. It was some of the most difficult fighting that took place in the entire war. It was the largest mobilization of guardsmen in Montana since World War II. The battalion was awarded the Valorous Unit Citation, and General WALSH received a Bronze Star for his exemplary service.

In 2008 Lieutenant Governor WALSH was appointed Adjutant General for the Montana National Guard. He led the State's guardsmen until 2012, when he retired to continue his public service in a new capacity as Lieutenant Governor of the State of Montana. Both as Adjutant General and as Lieutenant Governor, he has fought for access to education for veterans and for every Montana child. The Walsh family places great value on the power of education. Lieutenant Governor WALSH was the first member of his family to graduate from college. His wife of 29 years, Janet, has taught in the public schools in Montana for many years. In fact, JOHN and Janet met while they were

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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